# Whew! But It's Hard to Break Into Washington's Metropolitan Club

The Barriers of This Organization, Which Prides Itself at the Same Time Upon Its Exclusiveness and Upon Its Democracy, Seem to Some Applicants to Have Rusted on Their Hinges.

may enter the kingdom of heaven has laws giving over the responsibility of eleccaused many conjectures. One of these is: tion of new members to a board of gov-"Is it any harder for a man, depending ernors. Now the entire heard acts when a solely on his wealth or position, to become new name is under consideration. member of the Metropolitan Club, of

the applicant to the Metropolitan Club, if fifteen members don't want him-only fif- known to at least two of the board. teen, mind you, out of a total of over thirteen hundred-has no chance at all.

"Never explain," said the great Bismarck, "never retreat! Never apologize!"

So says the Metropolitan Club. In a city like Washington, where great wealth, social position and political power each prove an "open sesame" to almost every other portal, the resistance of the Metropolitan Club is rather remarkable, and public attention was called to it very forcibly last week when President Taft denounced 'small headed men' who in clubs attempt to manifest their greatness by blackballing men of prominence proposed

#### MUST BE CLUBABLE.

"We don't give a hang whom you represent, or what you own-if you are not 'clubable'!" is the slogan of the club behind whose front windows many a foreign diplomat would rather be seen than in any other club in America.

"Ridiculously conservative!" growl disgruntled applicants.

'Democratically simple!" respond those who have been for many years identified with the institution-for it is almost as much of a Washington institution as the Capitol or the Congressional Club.

Recently a Congressman from New York for membership. No one could have had more favorable indorse-ment, it is said. Yet the day before his application should have been acted on his name was withdrawn. Not even rumors of with combined Europe could have made a greater stir in certain circles at the

'Why?" demanded the man's adherents. Then they proceeded to explain it to their own satisfaction by the fact that he was

From the Metropolitan Club there came neither denial nor confirmation, for it never "rushes into print." In fact, it never rushes anywhere. Presidents and Senators and Congressmen and just plain politicians have been on its register ever since it was founded-so "too much politics" could not If the public was not aware of that fact, so much the worse for the public. Even when the writer sough out various well known members and urged an explanation, there was a reluctance to discuss the matter. What the club does, they said, concerns only its of-

But, in justice to the New York Congress

take pleasure in plackballing Mr. Hughes if at any time his name was proposed for how much money he has or has not, or half the regular dues. And because of the or home, and promptly changed his mind. pipe is unworthy the dignity of the more

HE Bible teaching that a camel may early days of its existence it had, but pass through the eye of a needle about 1882 certain slight changes were with greater ease than a rich man made in both constitution and

So keen is the desire to keep the club free from "undesirables" that, even after The camel might get through the needle two of its prominent members have "put if he were first reduced to fine hash, but up" a name and vouched for the owner of it he cannot be admitted unless personally

And this was precisely what happened to the Congressman from New York, if rumor be true. He had neglected to become personally-not casually nor conventionally, out personally-acquainted with two of these fifteen autocrats. Hence the necessity of withdrawing his name-without any reflec-

"Obviously, a chap can't vouch for some one he does not know personally," explained a member who talked. "When the time drew near for the consideration of the Congressman's name both men who backed him were out of town. No action ould possibly be taken in their absence. Had there been grave reasons for his nonadmission his name would never be put up again. I can state positively that it will go up again if he so desires. You see, therefore, it's all nonsense to say he was blackballed.

From other sources it was learned that it is not unusual for a man's name to be submitted two or three times before he



EXTERIOR OF THE METROPOLITAN CLUB, WASHINGTON.



MAIN DINING ROOM OF THE METROPOLITAN CLUB, WASHINGTON.

the information positively that he was in Frequently it is so because of some such to be admitted to membership.

no sense "blackballed," or even considered triffing detail as this. Yet it is precisely ber writing recently in a New York paper tion, a member of the club, announced in Sentences of censure by the board and susthis adherence to "red tape" methods that stated that no diplomats were active mem- great wrath that unless the matter were many women who believe that a man's pension for a fixed period from the use and if he While Mr. Taft did not directly refer to makes being "a member of the Metropolitan Club, many people thought he had it in mind, because Associate Justice Hughes, of the United States Supreme Legion of Honor.

State Ind applicates the Metropolitan Club, many people thought itan "akin, in the prideful mind of certain Markington sets, to wearing the Lub affairs. One of the original members tice Hughes, of the United States Supreme Legion of Honor.

Many Women who believe that a many w Court, had incurred the enmity of three Nothing seems to excite greater indigna- several names of men connected with the the pleasure of seeing him around any the club members of the Metropolitan Club, who in- tion in the average member of the Metro- legations in Washington at that time. Dip- more. The worthy gentleman straightway formed a friend recently that they would politan than to be told his club is snobbish. lomats are eligible for active membership, thought of all the dreary evenings ahead, "We don't care what a man's career is, but, as an international courtesy, pay only with no place to go but to state dinners he must be careful what he smokes. A

the Metropolitan has not a committee on solely as a white, imposing building, with the election of new members. In the very many windows and few lights, insists that He cited an instance in which the secretary

finally obtains the coveted membership, representatives of foreign governments have tof legation of a very important nation about. But not in the Metropolitan Club of the members present is official. Punish-

racetracks of New York while the justice one of them. "If he comes properly in-was Governor of that state. The three dorsed, he can belong. Should he fail to The comes groperly inwas Governor of that state. The three
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Who he is seeking

and publicity given the scandal the better

for the family as a whole. Many of the club's rules may seem strangely old-fashioned to the ultra-modern. But the Metropolitan does not care, ilone!" But a man who seeks and ob- \$37.50, and for absent members only \$10, tains access to the inner shrine must conform in every way to its conservatism.

#### SOME EXACTING RULES.

Some years ago there was a young dipomat on its membership list who had a penchant for sitting with his feet decorating the club window sills. As the occupant of an "all-night" hack, this might ave been an excusable attitude; but within the sacred precincts of the Metropolitan it was an offence. He was advised that, south from up 17th street, one's view of the majestic pile was sadly marred by his projecting boots. He, however, insisted on his right to select his own attitude, and the board duly agreed with him -but not within the Metropolitan Club! And when the next year-book came out

Mysterious Rejections of Persons Who Seemed Wholly Worthy of Admission Have at Times Brought Adverse Criticism to the Club, Which Has Had Notable Men of Different Lands Among Its Members.

in the cardrooms. Both these points are House are expected to observe all the covered by rules in the bylaws.

Metropolitan. Poker, faro, hazard, rouge not. et noir, roulette, all games of dice and all Time is no object to the club, nor does other mechanical devices for wagers or it consider the official importance of a chance are prohibited.

No games on which any wager is pending, nor pool, billiards nor cards are permitted to be played in the club on Suncays. Nor shall any game at all be played after the hour fixed for closing the club. The sedate residents of that section of west, are never harassed by the sight of many places not yet so considered. some straggler with "all the roll of the seas" in his legs, emerging from the club in the very late morning. Members are not permitted to enter after 1 o clock at night, and the doors close one hour later, except upon extraordinary occasions, "to be determined by the executive committee."

Democratic though the club claims to be, ne member may introduce a newspaper. magazine, or book even for his own use without the consent of the library committee. Any member taking away with him club stationery or literature is liable to expulsion.

If he brings his own wines, ales or mineral waters into the club he is charged a body went the self-appointed mace bearer uniform rate of \$1 a bottle for corkage.

An entrance fee of \$200 is required from the ground that, as presiding officer of the Public opinion, anyway, ruffles it about each resident member and half that House, it was his duty to remain. as much as the proverbial water on a amount from each non-resident member. duck's back. In more direct phraseology, Since 1906 the annual dues for resident its motto is, "If you don't like us, let us members have been \$75; for non-resident, ing," the caller retorted. And the Speaker, In addition to the long printed list of by-

laws and regulations there are a number of ber to ninety-eight. unwritten ones, the observance of which goes far toward preventing friction and He was having a very busy day. After gives to the club that peaceful atmosphere listening to the argument that it was only essential to the happiness of gentlefolk. A member is not supposed to permit his mal routine was being held up by his ab-

year book to get into the hands of any other than his family or a fellow member No one seems to know the reason for this-

A member never bows to a woman from the club windows or doorways. To all intents and purposes he must be a graven image when thus on view. And no lady made the hundredth member, dropping his would think of recognizing even her hus- work at the White House to do so. hand when passing this august club.

army or navy, an official of the govern- ter of taste. It was narrated to the writer ment, a member of the highest tribunal in in good faith. "No member may recline or sleep on sus, if a member wilfully infringes on any ington society are wont to allude to the any lounge or sofa within the club," reads of the rules or regulations or conducts him- Metropolitan as the "Old Men's Home," one of the bylaws. This may give huge self in a "manner unbecoming a gentle- because of the age limit it sets for membermirth to men whose idea of a club is a man," he is subject to expulsion upon a place where one may keep his hat on, his two-thirds vote of the board of governors. that the title is bestowed in envy rather eigar continually going and generally loll in stringent cases the vote of a majority than in scorn. ment is tempered according to the offence.

Nor does the Metropolitan Club allow an await what the government of France offender personally to determine what he and the Metropolitan Club alike consider considers proper conduct. It sets its own the age of majority-twenty-five. criterion of good breeding and disorder. Neither police court nor political club standmembership to the club. Their opposition whence he sprang—if he is a gentleman and transitory nature of their work they are whence he sprang—if he is a gentleman and transitory nature of their work they are whence he sprang—if he is a gentleman and transitory nature of their work they are whence he sprang—if he is a gentleman and transitory nature of their work they are claim to the club. Their opposition whence he sprang—if he is a gentleman and transitory nature of their work they are claim to the club. Their opposition whence he sprang—if he is a gentleman and transitory nature of their work they are claim to the club. Their opposition whence he sprang—if he is a gentleman and transitory nature of their work they are claim to the club. The club to the club. The club to the club to the club. The club to the club. The club to the clu

Whether it he based on past bitter ex- | though two men are not on speaking terms perience or to prevent any tendency toward boisterousness rumor sayeth not, but ly manner within if, for instance, they inthe fact is no whistling or ringing is allowed in the club. Conversation and re- other's presence. Congressmen who have marks by persons not playing are tabooed almost come to blows on the floor of the amenities at the Metropolitan. Congress There are no "all-night sessions" at the may excuse such behavior. The club will

No single wager on anything must ex- sary to a quorum. On one occasion, the story runs, a certain amendment to the constitution was desired, and the club decided to take a world-ballot. To each mem ber was sent a printed copy of the amendment, with a blank ballot for an expressicn of opinion. And it is indicative of the cosmonolitan membership that these blanks went everywhere in civilization and to

> Months had to clapse before the ballotreturned. Some never did. Eventually the matter reached the stage where one hundred resident members could constitute and control a quorum. In accordance with regulations this meeting was adjourned from time to time until the required number might be present. As it became apparent that such might never become the case, voluntarily, a certain in from the verious highways and byways of their local pursuits. Finally only three votes were lacking.

> Congressman J. B. Henderson was then Speaker of the House. Up to that august of the club. Mr. Henderson demurred on "As a member of the Metropolitan Club

it is also your duty to attend this meetgot into a carriage and swelled the num-The Secretary of State was then sought

a two-minute walk to the club, whose foritself long enough to be the ninety-ning member of the quorum.

### THE PRESIDENT DRAGOCNED.

No less a personage than the President Whether or not this tale is to be taken Whether he be diplomat, an officer of the with a grain of salt is more or less a mat-

Some of the younger element of Wash-

sidered himself perfectly grown up at over there." But the Metropolitan has no intention of having its slumbers thus

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ANTIQUE CARS

DESERTED CAT

# If We Want a "City Beautiful," Why Not Carve Off Some Existing Blemishes First?

## Here Are a Few of Them the street curb Which Have Smitten the Artist in the Eye as He Wandered About New York's Highways.

THE opening of the third national conference on city planning last week calls attention anese to the fact that It ought to be done. Some one ought to every now and then New York's civic pride see that it is done. We might all write a arouses itself from one of its deep sleeps would work after the manner of the typeand raises a loud howl in behalf of the writer tarpaulin, and, if they wanted to, City Beautiful.

actually accomplished.

The movement rarely gets beyond the it is worth. howl stage, and when it does it commonly Also à has the decorated fire escape directs itself toward the erection of some sort of expensive stone memorial. Right | banging their brilliant wardrohes over the there is the trouble-and I assert and will fronts of their houses. True, some of the demonstrate that a good deal more could marvellous color combinations of flaming be accomplished toward beautifying our red petticoats, set off by the quiet drabs metropolis by doing away with a lot of of the bedding, are worthy of exhibition. the things we already have than by ad- But these exhibitions might be made priding new ones.

right direction. It is usually the feminine not do as you do at home. In the name feet that make the first advances in the of the City Beautiful, reef in your fire esline of progress. This one started a cru- cape pennants. sade against bow legs among juvenile New Yorkers. Surely the eradication of wish- toward the City Ugly is the house being bone props would make the town easier to look at. Incidentally, this lady with the artistic eye and the good heart discovered a new lead for future advocates of the City Beautiful. Certainly we are altogether too busy to-day to take a deep interest in such affairs, but after we have correlled the required number of millions and left them to our children the legatees will have plenty of leisure for things tes-

Now, if these descendants ever decide to make New York a genuine City Beautiful and a joy forever, as the poet did not say, some of our most prominent local industries are going to hear about it.

In the first place, what would become of the monumental gas tanks if lovers of art its paper-there you have an eyesore that were ever to load up and go out gunning ranks right up with the dismantled house. for them? If there is anything truly unromantic in appearance and aroma it certainly is this same gas tank. Builders of mand constantly of you these big bulks seem to plan carefully so that the unlovely gas holders will loom why not?" up in some part of town that is otherwise very good to look upon.

You have seen Grant's tomb, of course? It is one of the most impressive monuments in the country. Yet the first thing to keep from reading them. But when that catches your enraptured eye after the posters have been up for about a looking at the tomb is a pair of twin gas month in rainy weather, the careless winds tanks close by, with their gaunt and rusty rip them into shreds and dangle the supports. The steel beams deface the sky, streamers about so that one has to notice and the leakage from the unburnt brilliance them. Even a bill board containing the yet haunting odor that will never be mistaken for ottar of roses.

"But," says the gas man, "we must have of it. Ah, perfectly correct, gas man. But why not forget the horse cars!

letter to the Mayor. The covers suggested the praises of the wares advertised could That is well-but said civic pride usually be printed on the outside of the covers. crawls into bed again before anything is It is merely a suggestion, of course. The companies are welcome to take it for what

Foreign-born Americans may be used to vate. It may look all right in Rome. But, Recently a woman took a step in the Romans, not being in Rome, you should

> Another thing that adds its little mite tern down. It is altogether a dirty and unsesthetic procedure. The dust flies about, seeking eyes in which it may alight and throats which it may set to coughing. The contractors could at least set up screens to hide the shameful homeliness of the dismantled house. Besides, it would keep the flying brick and mortar out of the "lamps" of uninterested persons who may have later use for their eyesight.

> Right along in this same class comes the discouraged signboard.

> Outside of the man who wrote the adare few defenders for the most beautiful of billboards. But let one of the boards become tattered and begin to moult a picture whom you have never met de-"Do you eat Pinkley's Pickles? If not,

Or the impertment and officious: 'Are you a Caw-Caw girl?"

The questions themselves can be ignored by those who have sufficient self control

not sink the tanks in big pits far down At least there is one thing in which ford the horses a deserved and eternal

Nothing can be said for the beauty of the prizes offered for the worst looking the electric sign in the daylime. They are methods of transportation. It wouldn't be all right when the shades of night have so bad if they were put away somewhere been pulled down. They deserve credit for to form a nucleus for a municipal traffic having made our Pet Street the envy of museum. Neat tablets could be placed on electric light companies in all other parts the ones in which General Grant and Com-of the world. But in the telltale glare of modore Vanderbilt used to come down the sun they deserve a prominent place in town. Certainly they have served their the front ranks up near the gas tanks. I time and deserve to be pensioned. Skip-It would be an easy thing for the elec- ping lightly over the mere appearance of tric sign magnates to have large covers the craft, the real antiquarian feels that placed over their boards in the daytime. it borders on the sacrilegious to have



One passes in natural sequence through gives the entire neighborhood a delicate, picture of Fritzi Scheff is frightful to the aforementioned car to the horses that we should not overlook the obtrusively look upon after the changing weathers haul the same madly through our crosshave made a lithographic scarecrow out town thoroughfares. Lovers of idealized Manhattan might step in and establish to weigh himself on freight car scales. And while we are on this subject let us chloroforming stations for these misfit substitutes for electric kilowats. It would af-

still dragged remorselessly through the ugliness-it would murder a couple of birds with the single stone as the saying goes. Doubling back a bit and taking up the subject of unbeautiful humans once more, fleshy person who crowds both sides of the car street as he sits down, and who has

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